

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): Relay with a coupling element, comprising: ~~at least one~~ a first spring bracket, a first plurality of contact spring pairs, each of the first plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the first spring bracket which cooperates with a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, wherein associated with the first plurality of contact spring pairs is a drive disposed on the first spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring of the first plurality of contact spring pairs anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs of the first plurality of contact spring pairs being electrically contactable through a connecting pin connection ~~contact~~; characterized in that the relay is mechanically connectable with at least one further relay ~~of the same kind wherein each of the relays have a similar configuration, wherein the further relay includes a second spring bracket and defines a second plurality of contact spring pairs, each of the second plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the second spring bracket which cooperates with a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, wherein associated with the second plurality of contact spring pairs is a second drive disposed on the second spring bracket at least one of the active and passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs being electrically contactable through a second connecting pin, and wherein the coupling element is a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays to thereby provide the mechanical connection between the respective relays, electric connection contacts~~ connecting pins of the contact springs of the first and second plurality of contact spring pairs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the coupling element ~~respective coupling devices~~, and further characterized in that the passive contact springs of the first plurality of contact spring pairs are aligned with the passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs,

each passive contact spring of the first plurality of contact spring pairs positioned on the coupling element opposite one of the passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs wherein the coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

Claim 23 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

Claim 25 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 24, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 26 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 25, characterized in that between the lateral projections of the partition wall grooves are formed, which grooves are adapted for the reception of said contact springs.

Claim 27 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the receiving openings of the respective spring brackets of the relays define lengthwise axes and the spring brackets further define outwardly opening slots disposed parallel to the lengthwise axes, the passive contact springs being disposed within the slots.

Claim 28 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 27, characterized in that for the electrical connection of the passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the two relays, at least one double contact spring is slidable into grooves of the coupling element.

Claim 29 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 28, characterized in that the at least one double contact spring is adapted to be connected with the coupling element prior to the coupling element being plugged together with the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 30 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 29, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 31 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 32 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

Claim 33 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 34 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 35 (previously presented) Relay according to claim 23, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 36 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 26, characterized in that for the electrical connection of the passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the two relays, at least one double contact spring is slidable into grooves of the coupling element.

Claim 37 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 38 (previously presented): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 39 (currently amended): Relay assembly with a coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a plurality of contact spring pairs associated with each relay, each of the plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the spring bracket of one of the relays and a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts each of the spring brackets, each of the drives acting over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs of each of the pluralities of contact spring pairs being electrically contactable through a connecting pin connection-contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically connectable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays to thereby provide the mechanical connection between the respective relays, the electric connecting pins connection-contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the coupling element the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that each of the passive contact springs of the plurality of contact spring pairs of one relay is aligned with and positioned on

the coupling element opposite one of the passive contact springs of the plurality of contact spring pairs of the other relay wherein the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 40 (currently amended): Relay assembly with a coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a plurality of contact spring pairs associated with each relay, each of the plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the spring bracket of one of the relays and a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, a drive disposed on ~~the spring bracket and which~~ aets each of the spring brackets, each of the drives acting over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring ~~anchored in the spring bracket~~, at least one of the active and passive contact springs of each of the pluralities of contact spring pairs being electrically contactable through a connecting pin connection contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically couplable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with ~~coupling devices~~ disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, the electric connection contacts connecting pins of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the ~~respective coupling devices~~ coupling element, and further characterized in that each of the passive contact springs of the plurality of contact spring pairs of one relay is aligned with and positioned on the coupling element opposite one of the passive contact springs of the plurality of contact spring pairs of the other relay wherein the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein the ~~active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets~~ plurality of contact spring pairs of each of the at least two relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The relay assembly with coupling element of claim 40 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the ~~passive and/or active~~ contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.

Claim 42 (currently amended): Relay with a coupling element, comprising: at least one a first spring bracket, a first plurality of contact spring pairs, each of the first plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the first spring bracket which cooperates with a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, wherein associated with the first plurality of contact spring pairs is a drive disposed on the first spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring of the first plurality of contact spring pairs anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs of the first plurality of contact spring pairs being electrically contactable through a connecting pin connection ~~contact~~; characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay ~~of the same type to provide at least two relays wherein each of the relays have a similar configuration, wherein the further relay includes a second spring bracket and defines a second plurality of contact spring pairs, each of the second plurality of contact spring pairs including an active contact spring disposed on the second spring bracket which cooperates with a passive contact spring positioned on the coupling element, wherein associated with the second plurality of contact spring pairs is a second drive disposed on the second spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs being electrically connectable through a connecting pin, and wherein the coupling element is a coupling element~~ constructed as a separate component engagable with ~~coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, the electric connection contacts connecting pins of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the coupling element the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that each of the passive contact springs of the first and second plurality of contact spring pairs of the coupled relays are aligned with each passive contact spring of the first plurality of contact spring pairs positioned on the coupling element opposite one of the passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs wherein the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein said coupling element includes at least one groove and at least one multiple contact spring slidably mounted in the groove, the multiple contact spring comprising and electrically coupling one of the passive and/or active contact springs of the first plurality of contact~~

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spring pairs and an aligned one of the passive contact springs of the second plurality of contact spring pairs ~~spring brackets of said relays with one another across the coupling element.~~

Claim 43 (currently amended): The relay with coupling element of claim 42 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the ~~passive and/or active~~ contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.